

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/986,688

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A control lever system for a parking brake, comprising:
a control lever for the parking brake, which is mounted to a console of a vehicle for moving between an operating position (B) in which it operates the parking brake, and a releasing position (A) in which it releases the operation of the parking brake, said console being located between left and right front seats of the vehicle;

a recess that accommodates the control lever when the control lever occupies the releasing position (A),

said recess being in said console and having an open lateral face at ~~only one~~ a lateral side thereof; and

a releasing knob operative for returning the control lever from the operating position (B) to the releasing position (A), the releasing knob being disposed on a peripheral surface of a grip portion of the control lever, the peripheral surface being exposed in the lateral open face of the recess when the control lever occupies the releasing position (A) so that the releasing knob is positioned to face said open lateral face of the recess,

said control lever having a base end, pivotably mounted to said console, and an opposite head end which is free of any releasing knob, said peripheral surface being located only between said base end and said head end of said control lever ~~lever,~~ and

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a clearance between said head end of said control lever and an end wall of said recess,
which is opposed to said head end, said clearance being so small as to permit only movement of
said control lever without being interfered with in any way by said end wall of said recess.

2. (currently amended): A control lever system for a parking brake, comprising:

a control lever for the parking brake, which is mounted to a console of a vehicle for moving between an operating position (B) in which it operates the parking brake, and a releasing position (A) in which it releases the operation of the parking brake ,

said console being located between left and right front seats of the vehicle;

a recess for accommodating the control lever when the control lever occupies the releasing position (A),

said recess being in said console and having an open lateral face at only one lateral side thereof; and

a releasing knob operative for returning the control lever from the operating position (B) to the releasing position (A), the releasing knob being disposed on a peripheral surface of a grip portion of the control lever, the peripheral surface facing a bottom surface of the recess when the console lever occupies the releasing position (A); (A) so that the releasing knob is positioned to face said bottom surface of the recess,

said control lever having a base end, pivotably mounted to said console, and an opposite head end which is free of any releasing knob, said peripheral surface being located only between said base end and said head end of said control lever; lever, and

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a clearance between said head end of said control lever and an end wall of said recess,
which is opposed to said head end, said clearance being so small as to permit only movement of
said control lever without being interfered in any way with by said end wall of said recess.

3. (currently amended): A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 1, further comprising positioning means disposed between an inner wall of the recess and a head of the grip around said head end of said control lever, the positioning means defining the releasing position (A) of the control lever to ensure that outer surfaces of both the console and the control lever are substantially flush with each other.

4. (currently amended): A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 2, further comprising positioning means disposed between an inner wall of the recess and a head of the grip around said head end of said control lever, the positioning means defining the releasing position (A) of the control lever to ensure that outer surfaces of both the console and the control lever are substantially flush with each other.

5. (currently amended): A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 1, further comprising a protrusion formed on a head of the grip around said head end of said control lever, the protrusion projecting toward a bottom surface of the recess, the protrusion defining a limit of grasping of the head of the grip by a driver.

6. (currently amended): A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 2, further comprising a protrusion formed on a head of the grip around said head end of said control lever, the protrusion projecting toward a said bottom surface of the recess, the protrusion defining a limit of grasping of the head of the grip by a driver.

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7. (currently amended): A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 3, further comprising a protrusion formed on a said head of the grip, the protrusion projecting toward a bottom surface of the recess, the protrusion defining a limit of grasping of the head of the grip by a driver.

8. (currently amended): A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 4, further comprising a protrusion formed on a said head of the grip, the protrusion projecting toward a bottom surface of the recess, the protrusion defining a limit of grasping of the head of the grip by a driver.

9. (Original) A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 1, wherein the releasing position (A) is substantially vertical.

10. (Original) A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 2, wherein the releasing position (A) is substantially vertical.

11. (Original) A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 9, wherein the control lever is disposed in a driver-facing front dash of a vehicle.

12. (Original) A control lever system for a parking brake according to claim 10, wherein the control lever is disposed in a driver-facing front dash of a vehicle.